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CROW'S NEST



AVIATION PILOT (1924-1933)(1942-1948):

U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS: (1885-1982) by John A. Stacey shows on page 22, both straight and curved winged shield/anchor, John says this mark was originally specified to be yellow on all rating badges, giving the general appearance of the Naval Aviator's wings. The specialty mark was changed to white on the blue rating badge and blue on all other rating badges in 1944. Some speculation the Coast Guard wore the curved wings, while the Navy wore the straight wings! Sarge

TORPEDOMAN'S MATE

During the Second World War an article appeared in the National Geographic on insignia of the U.S. Armed Forces with a section on navy rates. They show a Torpedoman's Mate with a torpedo that's slender and without fin guards. I have seen many different versions which had fin guards over the screw, but found none like that shown in that article I read from my National Geographic. Has anyone an example they can photocopy!? Also would like to illustrate all different types made by manufacturers, it would be interesting to see how many?!

Sarge



ALL HANDS
Oct. 1965

OUR COAST GUARD ACADEMY



BATTALION
COMMANDER

LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER

LIEUTENANT
OR ENSIGN



FIRST
CLASS

SECOND
CLASS

THIRD
CLASS



COMPANY
PETTY
OFFICER

PLATOON
PETTY
OFFICER

GUIDE

SQUAD
LEADER

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE RATES

Shown below is a Boatswain's Mate : USMS, anchor and crossed anchors in red as are the chevrons. on a blue navy wool background. If YOU have a any USMS rating badges, patches or other related insignia, please make a photocopy and mail to Crow's Nest to be included with other articles. WRITE: Crow's Nest, c/o Sarge Booker P.O.Box 881, San Fernando, CA 91340



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RATING BADGES (Part I)

The U.S. Coast Guard has many ratings like that of the U.S. Navy, plus others which are unique to the U.S.C.G., this has always been the case since World War One, when they had several ratings like water tender, coxswain, and a Master-at-Arms without the star as on the U.S. Navy rate, but with a shield in it's place!

Like the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard adopted top pay grades of Senior Chief E-8 and Master Chief Petty Officer E-9 in 1958. Master Chief Petty Officer of the USCG was instituted some time close to that of the Navy's MCPO of the Navy in 1968.

The specialty mark was the shield in silver shield, later changed to gold, and this rate had three stars over the head of the eagle, first in silver and later in gold. The next illustration is that of an Electrician's Mate MCPO with winged globe. Third is an Aviation Electronics Technician MCPO with winged neurons, and fourth we have an Aviation Machinist's Mate MCPO with a winged propellor.

Other rates will be shown in the next issues. Comments are welcomed and if you also spot an error, let us know! This is not the last word on the subject of insignia!

Sarge



CAN YOU I.D. THESE BADGES???

The first has the initials W.R.N.S. The second has U.S.N.A. 1942 on it. The third is a C.P.O. with an Army T.C. wheel. The fourth is a scallop shell in blue (light) on navy blue melton.



BULLION EAGLE RATING BADGES

U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS: 1885-1982 by John A. Stacey has a great section in Part 2 of his book that describes these badges and states it is only an attempt to provide some means of dating rating badges. Here on this page are some examples of these rating badges, however, no attempt is made on my own part to say which type is which and when they were made! This is only for the readers of the Crow's Nest newsletter to see and figure out for themselves, etc



SLEEVE INSIGNIA (1866)

Once again we return to 1866 and show below patterns for petty officers, which were used as a guideline for hand embroidery by skilled seamstresses after the Civil War. This badge, prior to 1866, was the sole device which designated all petty officers and was worn by Boatswain's, Gunner's, Carpenter's, and sailmaker's Mates, along with ship's cooks on the right sleeve above the elbow. Other petty officers wore the badge on the left sleeve. Special thanks to Les Tucker and John Stacey for samples.



SHIP'S COOK



U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS: 1885 - 1982 by John A. Stacey mentions this mark on page 39 and said it was in the uniform regulation of both 1885 and again in 1893, but was not shown in later regulations. Shown to our left is the 1885 version and is that of a Ship's Cook 1st Class, equal to a petty officer 2nd class. Both eagle and ring are blue on white background and chevrons are on a single piece of scarlet wool about 2 1/2 and 2 3/4 inches. Later replaced in 1908 by a crescent. A special thanks to CWO-4 Lester B. Tucker of Oak Harbor, Washington for his assistance. If you have any of these early rates, made a photocopy of them and share information!

GUNNER'S MATE THIRD CLASS (1893)

Shown to the right is the summer badge for a 3rd Class Gunner's Mate. Blue crossed cannon and an eagle, both in blue with scarlet chevrons, all on white cloth background.

Third class petty officers had two chevrons, but changed to a single chevron in 1897. For those who qualified as Seaman Gunner, a bursting-bomb was superimposed on the chevrons of the rating badge for petty officers, centered at the angle, according to U.S. Navy Rating Badges, Specialty

Marks, Distinguishing Marks: 1885-1982, by John A. Stacey on page 69.

Crossed cannon were used for Gunner's Mates from 1866, then known as Quarter Gunners without the chevrons later introduced in the 1885 regs. The barrels of the cannon were pointed downwards and worn on both sleeves by mates and on one sleeve by Quarter Gunners.

Does anyone have an example of the Gunner's Mate rating badges for either 1886 or 1893 that shows the Seaman Gunner bomb superimposed on chevrons?

Sarge



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

by: Laurence J. Karadin

"My pet peeve, which is the ugliness of the modern rating badge ... I can well appreciate the deterioration of the quality of the rating badge over the years, as concessions to production are made, in order to keep prices and profits in line. ... but, concession to production doesn't mean that you have license to play fast and loose with the design. The new one looks like a blunt instrument ... To add insult to injury, on the blue rates they've added a red tongue to the eagle's beak. Barf!!! The WWI rates are undoubtedly the most beautiful ... the attention to detail in the embroidery is phenomenal, & the eagles have very high relief." GM3 shown on left. The chest was padded and stood out. Actual untouched photocopy here for you to see for yourselves!!!

Sarge



ON, ON!

Jim Millholland of Vallejo, California wrote and sent in some photocopies of submarine ship's patches, they are shown here. He mentioned that one ship changed it's name as it was said they were asked to make the name change because the submarine (weapon) was an instrument of death and the name USS Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) was not a name appropriate. Some church members were alarmed! The name was changed with USS City of added to Corpus Christi. Both are 4" X 5" oval shaped and light-blue background, with a gold narrowed border as well as a gold chain and anchor and white letters/numbers on it, bordered black with a red shield with the State of Texas in white with a sub that is black with a red symbol of a neuron and gold crossed tridents. FOR GOD AND COUNTRY in black on a silver or white scroll.

Jim also sent a picture of a 5 inches in diameter patch also for Corpus Christi (SSN-705) with LAUNCHED 25 APRIL 1981. This is a fully embroidered patch on white with the letters/numbers in black and black outer border, inner border gold trined yellow. Gold state with a small white circle with outlined fish and oil derrick. The center piece, a triangle, is white, the portion to the left is red and to the right is blue. The 5" dia. patch of the SSN-665, Guitarro was used at Mare Island before the ship (sub) was completed the ship's force (crew) was selling them as the funds go to the ship's welfare and recreation committee, the submarine was sunk dockside when the two groups of Mare Island employees were trying to conduct operation without either group knowing what the other was doing. After the raising of the SSN-665 and refitting this force came up with a new patch.

BEFORE



AFTER



JIM MILLHOLLAND

4" X 5"



RARITY RATING

John C. Helvey (a/k/a The Storekeeper) of Lee's Summit, Missouri writes and tells us the rarity rating of navy rates and places them in five categories, the rarest rate category is of course in Number 1, with the least hard to find in Number 5:

R1 (Very rare and hard to find often):

CPO (AR); pre-1933 CPO & 1st (AP) either rounded or straight wings; Q.M. (A); (M.A.A.) 1885-1921; (S.M.M.); (UM)

R2 (Rare and difficult to find, especially in CPO ranks):

(A.C.M.); (GP); (AF); (AP) WW2; Bugmaster; (FT); (MoM); (MoMM); (NW); (PhoM); (PT); (PP); (R&M); (TC)

R3 (Scarce, but still available):

(AR); CPO (AW); (EM) 1st Class; (BR); (OM) CPO; (PhM); (SD) 1963-1975)

R4 (Becoming scarce in certain materials and ranks):

(AL); (AZ); (AS); (CM); (DS); (EN); GT); (ET); (IS); (LN); (MA); (NC); (OT); (PC); (PI); (RP)

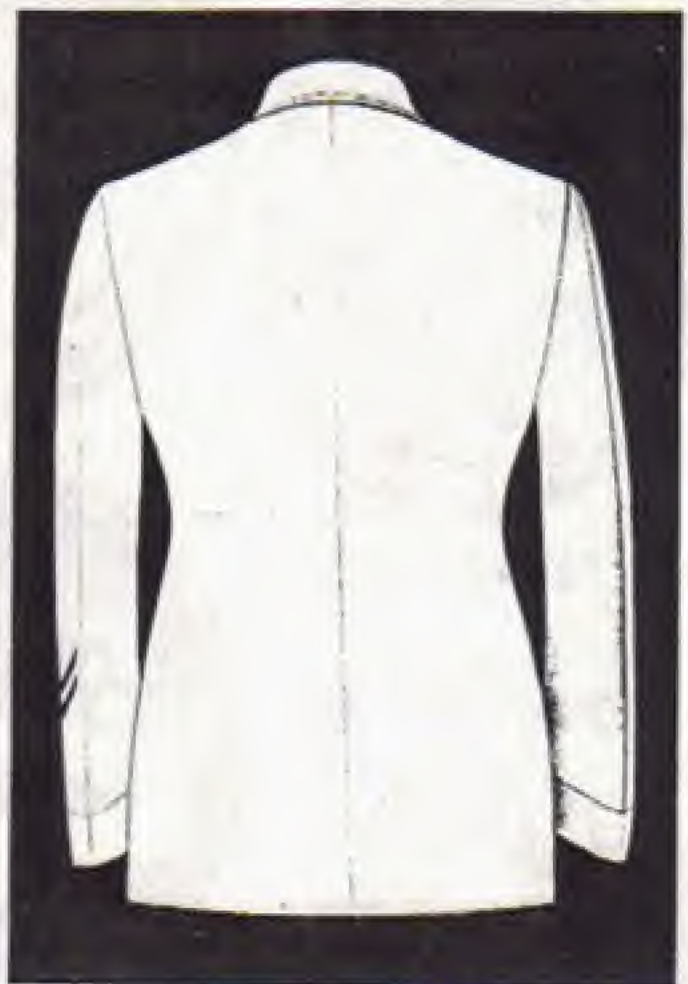
R5 (Quite common and readily available:

JOHN C. HELVEY

P.O. Box 117

Lee's Summit, MO 64063-0117

OFFICERS' COOK'S AND STEWARD'S WHITE COAT





MORE SUBMARINE SQUADRON PATCHES

Jim Millholland was generous enough to send us these examples of ship's patches which were reillustrated, and are shown here for the benefit of our readership to enjoy.

YOUR ship's patches CAN be shown here too!!! We also send YOU the original pen and ink valums for your collection upon request !!! All valumpaper are is 11" X 17" and suitable for framing and you're welcomed to them by asking. If unclaimed, the first who write and ask for will receive them. If you miss out the first time, your name will be considered on future artwork when available. Cost to you is FREE! We NEED your photocopies of YOUR insignia. You also make a difference and make it possible that we can keep publishing the Crew's Nest newsletter!!!

Sarge

X

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AMPHIBIOUS INSIGNIA (Part II)

U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885-1952

by John A. Stacey describes this very attractive badge and said it was made on a red background with yellow eagle carrying a Thompson machinegun and an anchor. The U.S. Army wore the badge of the same design with a blue background and the British wore it with a black background.

Patch courtesy of CWO-4 Lea Tucker of Oak Harbor, Washington.

SARGE



UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (GARDENER)

Shown in exact size is the rate for a gardener, all maroon on blue and white backgrounds. This was worn on both sleeves.

Sarge



MEDAL of the SHIPWRECKED FISHERMEN and MARINERS ROYAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

This Society, established in 1839, besides giving assistance to the shipwrecked, and relief to widows and orphans of seamen and fishermen grants gold and silver medals, and other honorary and pecuniary rewards for 'heroic and praiseworthy exertions to save life from shipwreck, et^c, to the high seas, or coasts of India and the Colonies.' The medal is suspended from its navy blue ribbon, 1 1/4 inch wide, by means of a silver clasp surmounted by two dolphins. A buckle is worn 2/3rds of the way up the ribbon.

Sarge